Vancouver metro

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2017

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Bell Let's Talk

Howie Mandel

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Megaphone vendor mourned; death called 'preventable'
metroNEWS

Award-winning B.C. brewer getting into the spirits
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Vancouver metro

Your essential daily news | TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2017 | High 1°C/Low -4°C Cloudy

JOHANNA SCHNELLER
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HOUSING MATTERS

THE UNREASONABLY LARGE LOOPHOLE THAT'S ALLOWING SIX THOUSAND HOMEOWNERS TO NOT PAY THEIR TAXES.

metroNEWS

March vs. Trump

PROTEST

Vancouver women say it's important to show solidarity

Jen St. Denis
Metro | Vancouver

As some Canadian women prepare to travel to the closest American city or even all the way to Washington, D.C. in order to march against Donald Trump the day after his inauguration as president, local events are also being planned in many Canadian cities, including Vancouver.

Along with three other Vancouver-area women, Lisa Langevin, a 48-year-old electrician from Pitt Meadows, stepped up to help organize the Vancouver event after an earlier attempt foundered. Marchers will gather at Jack Poole Plaza in downtown Vancouver on Jan. 21.

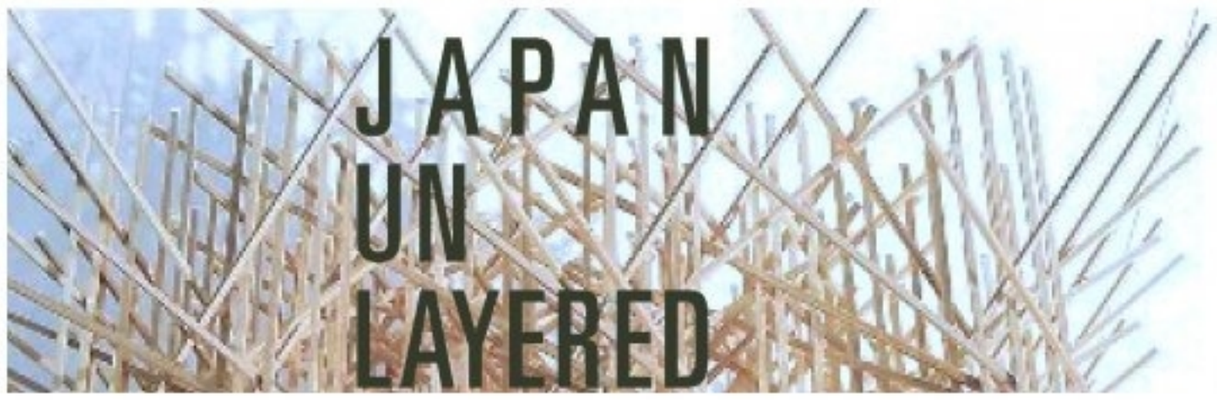
But what really galvanized Langevin to get more involved was seeing a video of Trump mocking a disabled reporter.

"It was no longer about politics," she said. "I really have no problem with people having different opinions on politics, that's fine. Mocking somebody who has a disability is not OK — and for the person who will be the highest in the land to model that is abysmal."

Samantha Monckton, a 45-year-old communications consultant, was volunteering with the Washington march but switched her efforts to her home city when she saw a Vancouver march was being organized.

"Besides being a woman, it's just a matter of human rights. We have to make sure our voices are heard."

Both organizers stress that the Women's March — organized in response to stunningly misogynistic comments Trump made throughout the campaign — is not just for women, but for all who want to send a message about the values they think are important.



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8

9

10

11

12

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Not all that glitters is gold, as people are swindled into buying bars of copper. **Canada**

Homeless man remembered as 'always giving'

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Magazine vendor Mike Illing was loved in various communities

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

A memorial service held on Sunday to honour a 57-year-old Vancouver man who died one month earlier allowed those who knew Mike Illing to "connect the dots" of his life and learn more about him, his friends and family told Metro.

Long-lost family members shared stories about the former film worker and longtime Commercial Drive-area resident at his Canucks Family Education Centre memorial service — alongside Illing's fellow Megaphone magazine vendors, passersby who bought the low-income publication from him, and people he met at a local church laundry program.

Illing died on Dec. 7 as temperatures plummeted to near-zero off Commercial Drive, where he was living on the street after losing his housing earlier last summer, Megaphone's executive director said.

Although the B.C. Coroner's Service hasn't yet revealed what caused Illing's death on the street in freezing temperatures, at least two other deaths have been linked to cold temperatures in the Lower Mainland, and his friends believe he died from exposure.

"Even though he was out on the streets and had a rough life, he had the Megaphone community, and many friends on the Drive who looked out for him and cared for him," Jessica Hannon said in a phone interview.

"He was a pretty private guy, on the quieter side, but he was really sweet and kind and had a funny, mischievous, wry sense of humour."

But even some of his fellow Megaphone vendors and friends didn't realize he was homeless. They believe it may have been because he was private and perhaps embarrassed to ask for help.

"Mike was really happy; he was happy all the time," said Megaphone vendor Suzanne Kilroy, who said she knew Illing for nearly a decade. "He seemed strong and he rarely asked for help.

"He did not seem like he was homeless. I knew he'd been in-between places before. But I wish I could have helped him get a place."

Causes dear to him

Illing also grew close to those running the Clean Start Laundry Program at the nearby Grandview Cavalry Baptist Church, and his brother said he hopes people will donate in support of that program and Megaphone, two organizations he valued immensely.

"We hadn't been able to find Mike for some time," he told Metro in a phone interview. "So it was a very nice event to see the kind of support he'd gotten from the Commercial Drive community.

"He was a very kind person — at times he had very little, but he was always giving. We've started to understand what an incredible impact Megaphone, the church and community services had on his life. The greatest service to Michael would be to ensure that those communities are acknowledged."

For Hannon, even though the "immediate cause" of Illing's death is still unknown, in a "more broad sense, the cause of his death was homelessness," she said, "whether from the cold, or complications from health issues he was dealing with, there are so many deaths that happen on the streets that are so preventable if he'd been in housing and had basic supports."

We've started to understand what an incredible impact Megaphone, the church and community services had on his life.
David Illing, brother of Mike Illing
PE IN SHADOWS
MEGAPHONE

Mike Illing, seen here with his Megaphone hawking gear, died on Dec. 7 as temperatures dropped to near-zero off Commercial Drive. CONTRIBUTED

Make a difference

"For the first time in my life, I know my purpose … to help those in need. Whether that help is a shelter bed, a hot meal, or to lend an ear in times of emotional distress, I love going to work day in, day out. Thanks for helping this spark grow into a flame Stenberg!" **TROY BALDERSON**
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Surrey's Central City makes first single malt whisky

ALCOHOL

Award-winning B.C. brewery, distillery enters spirits business

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

When Central City Brewers built its Surrey beer-making facility in 2013, its brewmaster predicted the public's appetite for small-batch craft beverages wouldn't just be "hoppy" — but that craft alcohol's future in B.C. might also taste a bit more "peaty" too.

Award-winning brewer Gary Lohin looked south to the U.S., home of North America's craft brewing surge, and saw that local spirits were also taking off apace with their hoppy cousins.

"We knew it would only be a matter of time before it came to Canada," he told Metro in a phone interview. "We had the opportunity to design a distillery into our brewery. It was a no-brainer for us."

It made sense not only as a "second revenue stream" for Central City, he explained, but also because the fermented, alcoholic liquid that gets distilled into whisky — known as a "wash" — is the same building block for beer.

"Whisky is probably the closest cousin of beer," he said. "The only thing you don't do is you don't add hops, typically.

"Up to the end of fermentation, it's the same process as making beer. So if you have all the equipment it just makes sense to do something like this."

On Jan. 23, the brewery and distillery is officially launching the first fruits of its bourbon-barrel-aged labours — its first single-malt whisky, the Lohin McKinnon Craft Distilled Single Malt Whisky, which Lohin co-created with head distiller Stuart McKinnon.

Central City Brewers and Distillers brewmaster Gary Lohin, left, joined forces with the Surrey craft company's head distiller Stuart McKinnon in their Whalley facility. BOTH IMAGES CONTRIBUTED/CENTRAL CITY

> **Whisky is probably the closest cousin to beer.... Up to the end of fermentation, it's the same process as making beer.**
> Central City Brewers and Distillers' Gary Lohin

Lohin doesn't just have a financial stake in the single malt product he began distilling three years ago, the duration Canada requires the barrel-aging process in order to qualify as a proper "whisky." However, while Scotland's scotches — such as the popular Glenlivet and Glenfiddich, or their smokier siblings Laphroaig and Ardbeg — are famous, no other single-malt whiskies are allowed to call themselves "scotches."

"I'm also just really passionate about whisky," Lohin said. "I've been professionally brewing since about 1989, but I've been a whisky aficionado for even longer."

He described his and McKinnon's three-year-old creation as a "simple whisky" that offers "very easy drinking" with "small notes of a multitude of things," perhaps most similar to a Glenlivet. However, with Canada set to celebrate its 150th birthday, Lohin said they've been aging their own peated whisky in used sherry barrels and hope to release it hopefully in time for the anniversary this year.

"We have some peated whiskies in our storage area that are very smoky and age well in sherry," he said, adding he believes it may be the first peated single malt commercially produced in Canada. "We will have some very flavourful ones coming out in the next few years."

The first batch of the Lohin McKinnon single malt will be available in more than 30 B.C. liquor stores and several private outlets too.

The new single malt whisky.

UNIVERSITY OF B.C

Furlong to speak again at fundraiser

Former Vancouver Olympic CEO John Furlong will be back at the podium for a University of British Columbia fundraising event after the abrupt cancellation of his speech and subsequent apology from the university.

University president Santa Ono announced Monday in a statement that after apologizing to Furlong he wanted to correct the fundamental wrong at the heart of the issue — the cancellation of the speaking engagement.

Ono says Furlong has an extraordinary record of public service, holds an honorary UBC doctorate degree, continues to be a champion for amateur sport and is especially qualified to speak at a benefit for aspiring student athletes.

He says reversing the course is the right thing to do and Furlong has graciously accepted the university's invitation to speak at the Millennium Scholarship Breakfast on Feb. 28.

The speech was cancelled after an open letter was circulated by a UBC graduate criticizing Furlong's record with First Nations.

Furlong has denied allegations in a 2012 newspaper article that he beat First Nations children while teaching in northern B.C. decades ago, and the journalist who wrote the article later lost her defamation lawsuit against Furlong. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Feb. 28

Date John Furlong plans to return to do his speech for the University of British Columbia

A woman uses a metal shovel to chip away at the ice built up on a street in Vancouver. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

WEATHER

City manager wants no warning for snow-clearing violations

Jen St. Denis
Metro | Vancouver

As many Vancouver neighbourhoods remain locked under a thick layer of ice, the city manager wants to review whether giving three warnings before issuing a snow-clearing violation ticket is too lenient.

"To me that's one of the lessons — having to issue that many warnings before issuing a ticket is really not a great use of staff time," Sadhu Johnston told reporters following a press conference on Monday. "We should really go out and issue a ticket, just like we do with any other violation."

The city has issued 9,000 warnings to residents and businesses who have not cleared their walkways in violation of a bylaw that requires property owners and tenants to clear sidewalks by 10 a.m. following a snowfall.

Between 200 and 300 tickets have been issued, with some of those proceeding to court action. While those who receive tickets must pay a $250 fine, escalating some particularly egregious cases to court action can yield higher settlements of up to $10,000, said Jerry Dobrovolny, the city's general manager of engineering.

Since many stores ran out of salt, the city has been delivering mounds of salt and sand to fire halls across the city, free of charge to residents.

IN BRIEF

Increase coming for homeowner grants, says finance minister

British Columbia's finance minister says the threshold to claim homeowner grants will be raised to help the tax burden on those whose property values have soared.

Mike de Jong wouldn't say what the new ceiling would be for the grant, only that he'd have more to announce in the next few days.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Deferrals skyrocket over decade

PROPERTY TAXES

But program unfair in its current form, say experts

Wanyee Li
Metro | Vancouver

The number of Vancouverites deferring their property taxes has increased five-fold since 2005, but some commentators say the provincial program needs some tweaks to justify it.

About 6,316 people in Vancouver deferred their property taxes in 2016, up from 1,260 in 2005, according to the city. The program allows homeowners to delay paying their property taxes indefinitely as long as they pay the annual interest rate of 0.7 per cent for those 55 years or older, or 2.7 per cent for those who have children.

$137M

Amount of property taxes deferred and not yet repaid in B.C. as of 2015

A little over $137 million in property taxes had been deferred — and not yet repaid — in B.C. as of 2015, according to the Ministry of Finance.

It's an effective program that ensures homeowners are not forced out of their house due to rising real-estate prices, but it does little to help those who cannot enter the housing market at all, said Paul Kershaw, founder of the advocacy group Generation Squeeze.

The group champions the needs of Canadians under 35 years old.

"We have to remind ourselves that the people who are most losing out are not those who are already in the housing market. It is people who can't get into the housing market or they are having to take on really large debt levels."

Even the interest rates, where seniors pay under one per cent and families pay almost three per cent, show preferential treatment for the older generation, he pointed out.

"It seems counterintuitive because the very group that reaps the most benefit from the escalation of home values are those who have been in the housing market for longer, and very often it is those who are 55 or older."

Architect and urban planner Michael Geller says the government should take it one step further and qualify households for property-tax deferral based on income or wealth. "Keep the program but make it means tested, against income or assets," he said.

"Then, I think, it will end up being used primarily by those in greatest need."

But until that happens, Geller says, everyone who qualifies for the program should take advantage of it, because it makes good money sense. He confirmed to Metro he defers his own property taxes.

"My advice to people, especially those who are genuinely concerned about paying their tax, is to take advantage of the program," he said, adding that people in the tax-deferral program are essentially borrowing money from the provincial government.

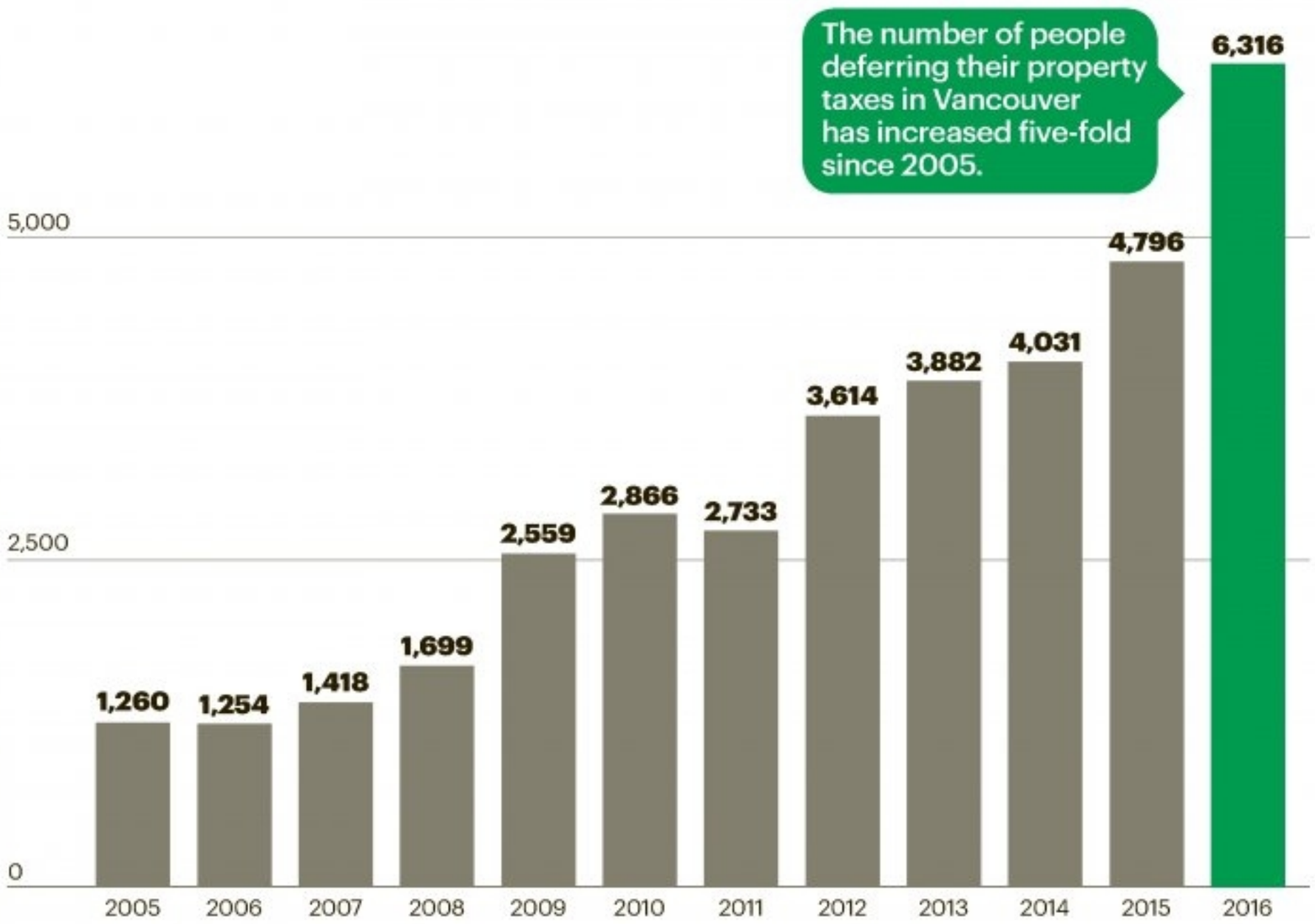
Geller says the steady uptake in the program is not surprising, given the increase in the property-tax rates and house values.

"There are a lot of people who are facing property tax bills of $5,000 a year and especially when they no longer qualify for the homeowner grant, if you look at that in after-tax dollars, it's quite significant."

The province reimburses municipalities for the money they lose from deferred property taxes. The tax deferral program for those 55 years and older was introduced in 1974 and the families-with-children version was created in 2010.

> We have to remind ourselves that the people who are most losing out are not those who are already in the housing market. Paul Kershaw

BY THE NUMBERS | Number of property-tax deferrals in the City of Vancouver



EDMONTON

Fraudsters turning copper into gold

Kevin Maimann
Metro | Edmonton

About once a month, someone comes into Sarah Patterson-Robert's store trying to hock fake gold.

"Usually I can tell really quick whether or not they know that it's fake and they're trying to rip me off, because they'll make a face when I say I have to test it, or they'll grab it and run," said Patterson-Robert, who's the manager of Edmonton Gold, a shop that buys and sells precious metals.

"Occasionally the person trying to sell it to me was ripped off, because they are just devastated when they're told it's fake."

Indeed, some Edmontonians got a painful reminder Monday that not all that glitters is gold.

Police say about 20 merchants and individuals in the city have been swindled into buying bars of fake gold for $300 to $800 each.

Their actual value? Less than one dollar apiece.

"It's a significant loss of money for them," said Edmonton Police Service Const. Robert Wellon, with the criminal investigation section.

Police found the bars were covered in real gold but made from 94 to 96 per cent copper after an investigation, following a similar scam that was uncovered in Winnipeg last month.

They recovered the bars which combined had a total of 220 grams of gold, which they peg at a total market value of $10,000.

Patterson-Robert offers to test every piece of gold she sells in front of the customer, and said no one should buy from someone who isn't able to do that.

"There's a lot of people who believe that we're going to be going back to a gold-based system — they think that regular money isn't going to be worth anything," Patterson-Robert said.

Police are warning Edmontonians not to buy gold unless it's been properly tested. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

ETHICS

Tory MP calling for vacation investigation

Conservative leadership candidate Andrew Scheer has asked Parliament's ethics commissioner to decide whether Justin Trudeau's secret family vacation to the Aga Khan's private island was an improper "gift" that constitutes a conflict of interest for the prime minister.

In a letter dated Sunday, the Saskatchewan MP pointed out that the Aga Khan's foundation in Canada has received tens of millions of dollars in international development contracts from the federal government, as well as funds for the organization's headquarters in Ottawa. Scheer wrote that the family vacation was a "private gift" from the billionaire religious leader that may have breached the Conflict of Interest Act.

Fellow Tory leadership hopeful Kellie Leitch also called for an investigation on Twitter.

"The prime minister of Canada must be held to the highest standard," Scheer said in a statement Monday. "We need to know if it is appropriate for Trudeau to accept gifts from someone whose foundation receives funds from the Government of Canada."

Last week, after days of public pressure to reveal where Trudeau was vacationing, the Prime Minister's Office admitted he, his family and a few friends had accepted an invitation to stay at the Aga Khan's private Bell Island in the Bahamas during the holidays. The PMO defended the trip's secrecy, stating it was necessary to protect the Trudeau family's privacy.

The office also put out a statement describing the Aga Khan as longtime Trudeau family friend. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau holds a news conference with his cabinet after they were sworn in at Rideau Hall. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Justin Trudeau gives his cabinet a shake

GOVERNMENT

PM to reshuffle team in wake of Trump presidency

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is expected to give his year-old cabinet a facelift on Tuesday, shifting some weak ministers and promoting strong performers as his government braces for Donald Trump's imminent ascension to the U.S. presidency.

Sources tell The Canadian Press that the shuffle will involve at least six people.

Those expected to be moved include International Trade Minister Chrystia Freeland, who is believed likely to replace Stephane Dion at Foreign Affairs.

Freeland, a former economics journalist with extensive contacts in the United States, is credited with deftly navigating through some eleventh-hour obstacles that threatened last fall to scupper the Canada-European Union free trade agreement — potentially valuable experience for dealing with the incoming Trump administration.

Trump, whose inauguration takes place Jan. 20, has vowed to adopt an unapologetically protectionist, America-first policy on trade, including re-opening or even tearing up the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Dion's tenure at Foreign Affairs has been a rocky one, marred by controversy over his approval of a $15-billion arms deal with Saudi Arabia. His prickly demeanour could also be ill-suited to dealing with the unpredictable Trump, who has demonstrated a tendency to easily take offence.

Rumours have swirled for months that Dion was to be named ambassador to France but he has denied any interest in the plum post.

News of the shuffle leaked out Monday, just as the Prime Minister's Office confirmed that Trudeau's two top aides, Katie Telford and Gerald Butts, have been meeting with some of Trump's senior advisers, building bridges to the incoming administration.

Also believed to be in the shuffle mix are Status of Women Minister Patty Hajdu, seen as a strong performer, and Democratic Institutions Minister Maryam Monsef, widely criticized for her handling of Trudeau's promise to reform Canada's voting system.

Employment Minister Mary-Ann Mihychuk is also expected to be moved.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ANIMAL RIGHTS

Marineland facing more cruelty charges

Jennifer Bluhm announced six new charges against Marineland on Monday. SAMMY HUDES/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Marineland was charged Monday with six counts of animal cruelty, but the company dismissed the allegations, accusing Ontario's animal welfare agency of acting on behalf of "a band of discredited activists."

The latest charges, filed by the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, relate to a number of land animals kept at the tourist attraction in Niagara Falls.

They include one count each of permitting elk, red deer and fallow deer to be in distress, and one count each of failing to provide the standards of care for those animals.

The agency's deputy chief inspector, Jennifer Bluhm, said the latest charges were part of a "complex investigation" that began on Nov. 10, when the OSPCA received a complaint of alleged animal cruelty.

Later that month, the agency laid five counts of animal cruelty against Marineland that related to the treatment of peacocks, guinea hens and black bears.

The OSPCA said at the time that more charges were pending.

"It was apparent there were additional charges that were appropriate," Bluhm said Monday. "While the investigation is still ongoing, these are all the charges we expect to be laid in this case."

Marineland has denied all the charges, none of which have been proven in court.

On Monday, the company accused the OSPCA of engaging in "a publicity campaign at the behest of a band of discredited activists with little relevant expertise or knowledge."

It also suggested that the move was an attempt by the agency to appease animal rights groups that have criticized the OSPCA for not doing enough to protect animals. THE CANADIAN PRESS

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

From son-in-law to senior adviser

President-elect Donald Trump's influential son-in-law Jared Kushner will join him in the White House as a senior adviser, transition officials said Monday, putting the young real estate executive in position to exert broad sway over both domestic and foreign policy, particularly Middle East issues and trade negotiations.

Jared Kushner
AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Trump has come to rely heavily on Kushner, who is married to the president-elect's daughter Ivanka. Since the election, Kushner has been one of the transition team's main liaisons to foreign governments, communicating with Israeli officials and meeting last week with Britain's foreign minister. He's also huddled with congressional leaders and helped interview Cabinet candidates.

His eligibility could be challenged. But Kushner lawyer Jamie Gorelick argued Monday that a 1967 law meant to bar government officials from hiring relatives does not apply to the West Wing. She cited a later congressional measure to allow the president "unfettered" and "sweeping" authority in hiring staff.

Kushner, who will not be taking a salary, will resign as CEO of his family's real estate company and as publisher of the New York Observer, as well as divest "substantial assets," Gorelick said. She said Kushner will recuse himself "from particular matters that would have a direct and predictable effect on his remaining financial interests." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama nets high approval, but he didn't unite nation

UNITED STATES

Over half of Americans hold favourable view of president

More Americans feel Barack Obama's presidency divided the country than feel it brought people together, a new poll shows. Yet he leaves office held in high esteem by a solid majority.

Eight years after Obama's historic election, just 27 per cent see the U.S. as more united as a result of his presidency, according to an Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll conducted after the 2016 election. Far more — 44 per cent — say it's more divided.

Those figures underscore one of the key contradictions of Obama's presidency. By and large, Americans like him. Yet, aside from the big "Obamacare" health care overhaul, he has been unable to translate that approval into congressional majorities to fulfil many of his goals.

"It's one of the few regrets of my presidency — that the rancour and suspicion between the parties has gotten worse instead of better," Obama said last January in his final State of the Union address.

Still, 57 per cent say they view Obama favourably, putting him way ahead of his predecessor, George W. Bush, and on par with Bill Clinton at the end of their two terms. Clinton had the same 57 per cent but Bush just 40, according to Gallup polling at the time. Bush's father fared better, with 62 per cent viewing him favourably at the end of his time in office.

Just over half say Obama's presidency has been great or good. Thirty-seven per cent view him unfavourably. Did he keep his promises? He did not, in the minds of 2 of 3 Americans, though 44 per cent say he tried.

There's frustration even among many longtime Obama supporters about the lack of movement on major priorities such as overhauling the nation's immigration laws, enacting gun control measures and shutting the prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

"He acted very presidential, but he just couldn't get things done," said Dale Plath, a retired sales manager from Mason City, Iowa. He said he voted for Obama the first time, voted against him the second, and this year, Plath said: "I voted for change, frankly" — in the form of Donald Trump.

Obama leaves office more popular than he was just a few years ago. In December 2014, the month after Democrats lost control of the Senate, just 41 per cent said they viewed him favourably in an AP-GfK poll.

His complicated legacy comes into sharper focus when it comes to race. Nearly 8 in 10 African-Americans view the nation's first black president favourably, but far fewer see his presidency as having yielded the type of profound changes for black Americans that many had hoped.

Just 43 per cent of African-Americans say Obama made things better for black people, while roughly half say they see no difference. Six per cent say Obama has made things worse. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An ale pectoral sandpiper on the tundra near Barrow, Alaska, calls out in the futile hope of attracting a female. BART KEMPENAERS/MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE FOR ORNITHOLOGY VIA AP

WILDLIFE

'Failed Don Juans' won't stop looking for a mate

You fly more than 100 miles for love. You get rejected. You fly another 100 miles. Another rejection. And another.

That's the high-flying but futile sex life of the male pectoral sandpiper looking for love in northernmost Alaska, according to a new study.

Some males are more persistent than others. Researchers tracked one desperate small shorebird that logged more than 8,100 miles (13,045 kilometres) in two dozen different hook-up attempts over a frenetic four weeks.

"They're definitely trying hard to flirt and court," said biologist Bart Kempenaers of the Max Planck Institute for Ornithology in Germany . "They are not particularly successful most of them. Failed Don Juans mostly."

Sandpipers migrate from South America to breeding grounds in the Arctic tundra in the summer. The males tend to be sex crazy during this time because females are only fertile for a few weeks. They flit all over the place, trying hard to seal the deal with loud throaty hoots as many times as possible. The problem for them is that the females only mate once or twice a season.

"Copulations are incredibly rare," Kempenaers said. "The males need to try and try and keep at it."

Researchers tracked the activity of 100 male birds during a breeding season. It is "the most extreme example" of promiscuity in animals seen yet, said Kempenaers, who led the study published Monday in the journal Nature .

The males mostly forgo sleep as they embark on non-stop flights in search of a mate, getting by on snatches of shut-eye lasting several seconds at a time, Kempenaers said.

The average bird flies about 110 miles (178 kilometres) between mating attempts. In a breeding season, the males log on average about 1,900 miles (3,060 kilometres), a bit farther than flying from Los Angeles to Chicago.

Sandpipers can fly 40 hours non-stop around 60 km/h, but these long trips often end up in rejections. Those that successfully mate don't have a role in raising the offspring, Kempenaers said.

George Divoky, a biologist at the scientific group Friends of Cooper Island that monitors the changing Alaskan Arctic, said in general Arctic shorebirds are shrinking in population.

He called the study on this species of bird impressive, adding that it "will make me think differently about every pectoral sandpiper I see during the summer." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Snake on a plane: Flight halted in serpent spotting

Once Samuel L. Jackson appeared in Dubai, it really was only a matter of time before the snake on a plane turned up. Dubai-based airline Emirates said that one of its flights from Muscat, Oman, to Dubai was cancelled after a snake was spotted. Passengers hadn't yet boarded the Boeing 777. Jackson, who starred in the thriller "Snakes on a Plane," was in Dubai last month for the Dubai International Film Festival. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Tuesday, January 10, 2017

EMMA TEITEL ON THE RIGHT TO DISCONNECT

At this very moment France is not in the business of building on the tools of mass communication; it's in the business of restricting them.

Despite a reputation for standoffishness (especially with tourists) the French have invented some of the most important mass communication tools in human history. These include the papermaking machine, the Bic Cristal ballpoint pen (who doesn't have one of those?), and the bane of high school principals everywhere: the mobile software that enables us to share photos on our cellphones en masse, i.e. the DNA of the nude selfie.

This history is interesting and odd, because at this very moment France is not in the business of building on the tools of mass communication; it's in the business of restricting them.

I'm referring to the country's new "right to disconnect law" that went into effect on New Year's Day (along with a series of other labour-related regulations): a law that makes it illegal for employers to intrude on employees' private time via email after working hours.

More specifically, the law requires that companies with 50 or more staff members work with unions and employees to devise a policy that prevents the intrusion of office emails into workers' leisure time. The "Right to Disconnect" policy comes on the heels of a French study about the scourge of so-called "info-obesity": the suffering health of French workers who are constantly connected to their emails outside working hours. Curtail that connection, argues French Labour Minister Myriam El Khomri, and everybody — bosses and charges alike — will be better off.

So it goes that the nation that invented the software that keeps Kim Kardashian's selfie empire afloat has taken a vow of technological temperance.

The question now for those of us who live outside of that nation is should we follow suit? Should we do as the French do, and demand: "No longer will our vacations be cut short by uncharitable bosses who refuse to respect the authority of our Out of Office autoreplies?" Our answer, judging by fawning headlines and editorials heralding the right to disconnect, is a resounding yes. As a rule, liberal North Americans love to heap praise on progressive European social policy, and it appears this case is no exception.

Now that France has passed a law that makes it illegal for employers to intrude on employees' private time via email outside working hours, the question for the rest of us is: Should we follow suit? TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

And why should it be? The law, after all, is a step in the right direction toward reviving the fast fading line between work and play (a line that is likely to go extinct without government intervention.)

But unfortunately, the law is also a Band-Aid solution to a much deeper problem. Excessive emailing isn't the prime enemy of leisure time in the modern work world. We are the enemy. That is, our addiction to technology is the enemy.

It's an addiction that motivates 87 per cent of U.S. workers, according to an American survey from 2015, to check their emails outside work hours everyday, and provokes the average smartphone user, according to a study from 2013, to check Facebook 14 times a day. It's an addiction, according to another study, from the U.K., that triggers university students who are separated from their technology for 24 hours to suffer withdrawal symptoms similar to those exhibited by heavy cigarette smokers.

It's an addiction, in other words, that cannot be legislated away, because its pervasiveness is as much the fault of Internet-obsessed employees as it is inconsiderate bosses. (I check my email almost every day when I am on vacation not because I think my employer is emailing me, but because I am addicted to my phone.)

Technology's pervasiveness is as much the fault of Internet-obsessed employees as inconsiderate bosses.

In fact, one could argue that a prohibition against after-hours emailing is almost useless if it doesn't address the job pressures exacerbated by social media. Email, after all, is only one of many online communication tools available to employers. If you happen to work in public relations, or advertising, the line between personal and professional is often even blurrier; many people in these fields are required to post content to social media on behalf of their organizations — a duty that never sleeps and is rife with personal risk. Make a mistake in a rush, and your career and reputation could be in the gutter.

If your job involves social media — and even if it doesn't — it isn't unlikely that you follow your bosses and colleagues on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram. If this is the case, so long as you are logged onto to one of those platforms you are effectively never out of reach of your employer.

The truth, then, is that the disappearing line between work and leisure time cannot be restored by legislation alone. It will be restored only if — in addition to the passage of progressive labour laws — we decide to commit to the deeply personal work required to kick any powerful addiction.

Emma Teitel is a columnist for the Toronto Star.

Fire department suffers the worst of the Ice Crisis

CITY HOLLER
Trish Kelly

Last week, in the midst of a cold snap that most of Canada rightfully scoffs at, Vancouver residents nearly rioted over road salt.

The city announced residents could pick up a bucket's worth from firehalls around town, and the scene turned so ugly, police were called.

I could say that I've dug deep into my well of empathy to discover the reasons people shoved each other and got in the way of fire trucks, just to get a bucket of salt, but as good as my imagination and compassion can be, I cannot sympathize with such poor citizenship.

My empathy goes to the firefighters who drew the short straw in the municipal staff lottery, getting tasked with this duty, which has nothing to do with fighting fires or acting as first responders. On top of the exhausting task of making it first to the scene of countless medical emergencies, including car accidents and an avalanche of fentanyl overdoses, now they are forced to deal with frantic greed inspired by road salt.

Imagine, as a kid, dreaming of becoming a firefighter, then as an adult, going through grueling physical training to reach the fitness level of a top athlete, taking numerous training courses, getting your air brakes license, and psyching yourself up for a type of community service that requires risking your life on a regular basis, before you can even apply for the job. One chilly January morning, you head to work to find that Vancouver residents are making a fight club out of your parking lot, in anticipation of a delivery of salt they will toss on their sidewalks.

I can imagine the diminishment of morale for the firefighters who had to worry if the next call to attend a fentanyl overdose would have to go unanswered because the unruly salt seekers didn't notice they were blocking access to emergency vehicles.

How did the city's firehalls get stuck with the job of doling out road salt, anyway? Why didn't the park board's 24 community centres pick up this task? Most have substantial parking lots and already are places where residents frequent and feel a sense of ownership and belonging.

I think the salt fiasco comes down to an issue of belonging; the people jostling to get to the salt before their neighbours do not see themselves as citizens, or neighbours. They see themselves as the last man standing, or invisible to their fellow citizens.

We are in this city together and when one of us devolves to selfish idiot, we are all diminished.

What you do matters. Everyday. When you choose to meet your neighbours eye, say thank you or offer help, you make the city we live in.

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U2's stadium tour to celebrate the 30th anniversary of The Joshua Tree will kick off in Vancouver May 12

Why it seems like *everyone* is sick

Flu season is peaking at the same time as other respiratory viruses. Metro reports on the hotspots, and what you can do to protect yourself from the perfect storm of sickness.

Genna Buck
Metro | Toronto

The sounds of hacking, sneezing and sniffling fill the halls of hospitals, workplaces and schools across Canada.

We're in the thick of a whopper sickness season, for two main reasons:

One: There's a particularly nasty flu — and a lot of it — going around. Two: Everything else is going around too.

Only a fraction of those who come down with flu-like symptoms are tested, so the real case count is certainly higher, but in the last two weeks of December, 3,177 people tested positive for flu in Canada. That's a ten-fold increase over the 298 cases diagnosed in the same period in 2015.

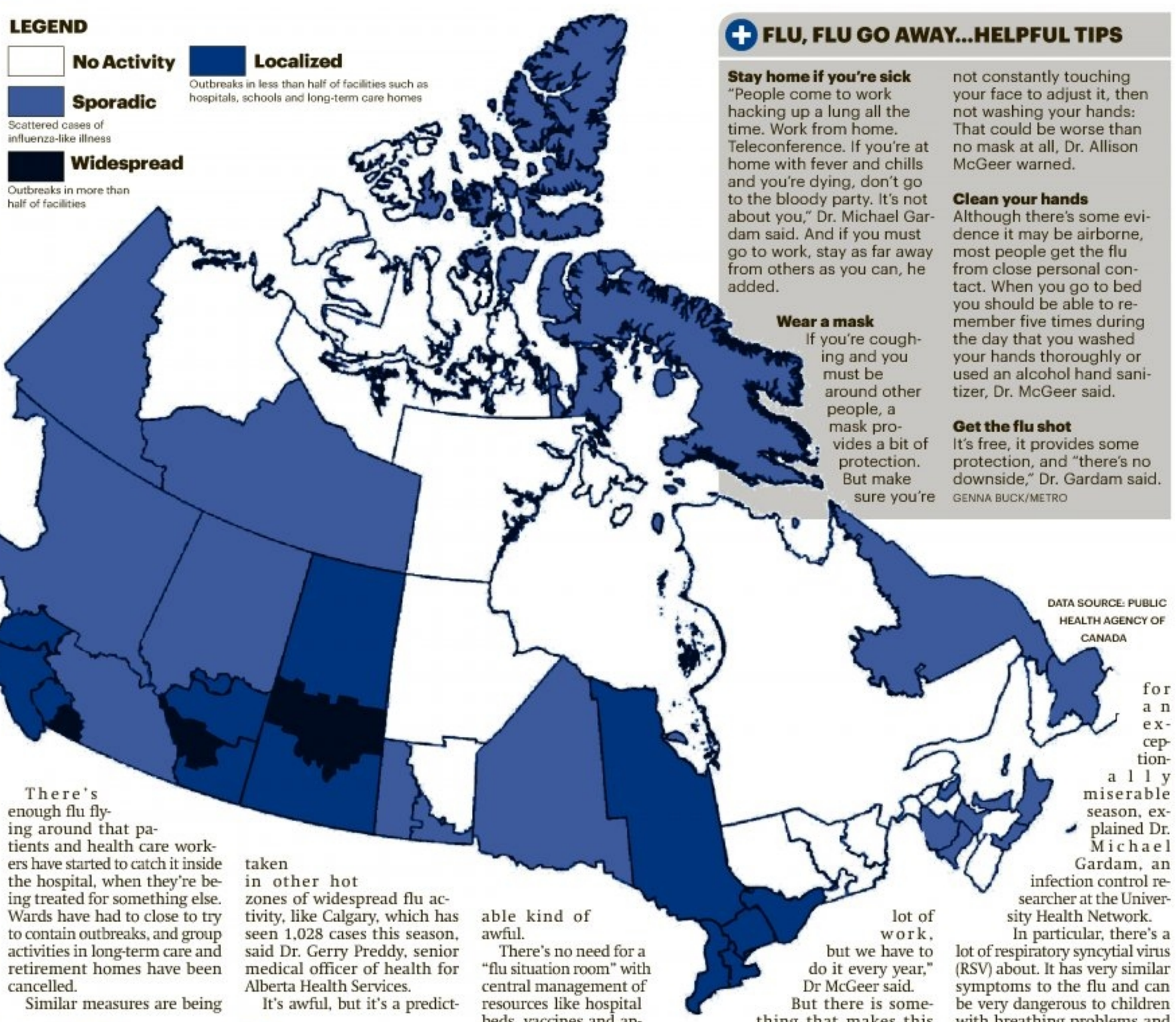
Blame it on H3N2, said Dr. Allison McGeer, a flu researcher and director of infection control at Toronto's Mt. Sinai hospital. That's the main strain of influenza going around this year. And although the flu shot developed to fight it seems to be a good match, it might not stay that way for long, because H3N2 mutates really, really quickly.

There's more: Through illness and vaccination, most people accumulate some immunity over the years to flu strains such as H1N1 and influenza B.

"With H3N2 it's not like that," McGeer said. "I've seen older people get two H3N2 infections six months apart. You don't accumulate immunity, so you're really dependent on this year's vaccine."

So H3N2 hits the old and frail the hardest. The flu shot also doesn't work very well on them, making it doubly important for the healthy adults around them — family members and health-care workers — to get their shots, McGeer said.

Although public health people around the country are extremely busy at the moment (Dr. McGeer's pager went off twice during our 30-minute chat), she was quick to say it's not a crisis.


LEGEND
No Activity
Sporadic
Scattered cases of influenza-like illness
Widespread
Outbreaks in more than half of facilities
Localized
Outbreaks in less than half of facilities such as hospitals, schools and long-term care homes
DATA SOURCE: PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF CANADA

There's enough flu flying around that patients and health care workers have started to catch it inside the hospital, when they're being treated for something else. Wards have had to close to try to contain outbreaks, and group activities in long-term care and retirement homes have been cancelled.

Similar measures are being taken in other hot zones of widespread flu activity, like Calgary, which has seen 1,028 cases this season, said Dr. Gerry Preddy, senior medical officer of health for Alberta Health Services.

It's awful, but it's a predictable kind of awful.

There's no need for a "flu situation room" with central management of resources like hospital beds, vaccines and anti-viral medications, like there was during the swine flu pandemic of 2009 and SARS in 2003.

"That's for situations that are beyond our capacity — this is just a flu season. There is a need for a lot of communication. It is a lot of work, but we have to do it every year," Dr McGeer said.

But there is something that makes this year different: other, non-flu respiratory viruses the Public Health Agency of Canada keeps track of are peaking at the exact same time as flu.

A hockey-stick-like spike in the various respiratory viruses began before Christmas, making for an exceptionally miserable season, explained Dr. Michael Gardam, an infection control researcher at the University Health Network.

In particular, there's a lot of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) about. It has very similar symptoms to the flu and can be very dangerous to children with breathing problems and premature babies.

"My guess is we're two-thirds of the way through the peak of this," Gardam said. "It's not just flu. I want you to get your flu shot, but we can't rely on your flu shot as your only control measure."

"If you're at home with fever and chills and you're dying, don't go to the bloody party.
Dr Michael Gardam

+ FLU, FLU GO AWAY...HELPFUL TIPS

Stay home if you're sick
"People come to work hacking up a lung all the time. Work from home. Teleconference. If you're at home with fever and chills and you're dying, don't go to the bloody party. It's not about you," Dr. Michael Gardam said. And if you must go to work, stay as far away from others as you can, he added.

Wear a mask
If you're coughing and you must be around other people, a mask provides a bit of protection. But make sure you're not constantly touching your face to adjust it, then not washing your hands: That could be worse than no mask at all, Dr. Allison McGeer warned.

Clean your hands
Although there's some evidence it may be airborne, most people get the flu from close personal contact. When you go to bed you should be able to remember five times during the day that you washed your hands thoroughly or used an alcohol hand sanitizer, Dr. McGeer said.

Get the flu shot
It's free, it provides some protection, and "there's no downside," Dr. Gardam said.

GENNA BUCK/METRO

JOHANNA SCHNELLER **WHAT I'M WATCHING**

Our empathy ambassador

The background buzz at the Golden Globes fell silent as Meryl Streep delivered her stirring speech. CONTRIBUTED

THE SHOW: The 2017 Golden Globe Awards (NBC/CTV)
THE MOMENT: Meryl's speech

There was only one moment that mattered. Accepting her lifetime achievement award, Meryl Streep stood on stage. She held notes, but she didn't need them.

She said that everyone in Hollywood — in America — came from somewhere else. Then she cut to the quick: "An actor's only job is to enter the lives of people who are different from us and let you feel what that feels like," she said. "But there was one performance this year that stunned me.... There's nothing good about it. But it did its job.

"It was that moment when the person asking to sit in the most respected seat in our country imitated a disabled reporter, someone he outranked in privilege and power and the capacity to fight back." She finished by calling on everyone to support the principled press, "because we're going to need them going forward and they'll need us to safeguard the truth."

Throughout the broadcast, background noise had buzzed from the bar. But now Streep's raw voice was the only sound. You could feel the room holding its breath.

It's impossible to do justice to how gutsy and thrilling Streep's decision was to make this speech. Most honourees speak about their careers. Streep's been honoured so much, she's past that. This is her lifetime achievement: to have earned the ability to hold the world still for five minutes to say something necessary.

She showed all of us whose hearts are broken by Trumpism a way forward. Not through anger, but through truth. She's our ambassador for empathy.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

FACT CHECK

Rating Streep's records
While "overrated" is an opinion, Streep holds the record for the most Academy Award nominations of any actor. She has earned 19 Oscar nods and three wins, as well as a record 29 Golden Globe nominations and eight wins, and two Emmy Awards. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SOUNDING OFF ON STREEP **TRUMP & CO. REACT**

Hollywood's leading lady found herself in the firing line when the president-elect woke up Monday morning. METRO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Meryl Streep, one of the most over-rated actresses in Hollywood, doesn't know me but attacked last night at the Golden Globes. She is a Hillary flunky who lost big.
Donald Trump

I'm a lifelong fan of your work but also a lifelong martial artist. Please be my guest at the LA Forum on January 21st and you will see that mixed martial arts is truly artistic.
Scott Coker, the head of Bellator MMA, invites Streep to an event after her MMA jibe in the speech

This Meryl Streep speech is why Trump won. And if people in Hollywood don't start recognizing why and how — you will help him get re-elected.
Senator John McCain's daughter, Meghan McCain, a Fox News host.

Now I hope that Meryl Steep will use her power and influence to ensure that TV and movies include people with disabilities with accurate and positive portrayals.
Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi, president of RespectAbility, a nonprofit advocating for people with disabilities

A HANDMAID'S TALE

Moss finds fresh meaning in Atwood

Elisabeth Moss has long been prominent on the television front lines in the fight against sexism.

As secretary Peggy Olson, she rose through the ranks of misogynistic executives during the Mad Men era. But her character in Margaret Atwood's A Handmaid's Tale takes the glass ceiling to another level.

In the Canadian author's celebrated novel, Offred lives in a fundamentalist society that was once the United States. Gilead is faced with a declining birth rate and women are treated as property of the state.

The name "Offred" literally means "Of Fred," the commander to whom she is bound in servitude. The tale is once again about the imbalance of power in society, this time told through the broader lens of speculative literature.

"It's incredible that it has such meaning today and it was written more than 30 years ago," Moss says.

Moss read Atwood's work years ago and has since reread it several times "till it was dog-eared" to get insight into her character. That included meeting with Atwood herself in Toronto where the series by streaming service Hulu is shot. Co-stars include Alexis Bledel (Gilmore Girls), Samira Wiley (Orange Is the New Black) and Joseph Fiennes (Shakespeare in Love).

Elisabeth Moss plays the role of Offred in Margaret Atwood's A Handmaid's Tale. CONTRIBUTED

"We talked a bit. I asked her a few questions as to what she was thinking when she wrote it," said Moss. "But the funny thing is, it's all there in the book. If we do a scene from the book, I always read it. It's so intimate the way she wrote it. My greatest reference and the closest I can get to Margaret Atwood is in that book."

Atwood didn't give her any specific advice, said Moss. "That's what's so cool about her. She has given us total confidence and freedom. It's allowed us to believe in ourselves."

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LEARNING CURVE

The device on the desk debate

ISTOCK

Joy to the world, the gadgets have come. Every new and shiny electronic device you could have asked for has landed in your lap over the holidays and you can't wait to show each one off to your post-secondary peers. But hold on a minute before connecting your portable device in the classroom, because it might not be as welcome there as it was under the tree.

"Used properly, they definitely enhance learning," says Lisa Symons, professor in the marketing program at Conestoga College, of portable electronic devices. "However, more often than not they aren't used properly."

"Even with a laptop or tablet, I would say only use it in class if you seriously can't write notes by hand," says Symons, adding that she exercises a no-device policy in some of her classes depending on the subject. "I would suggest even doing the same during a break — use that time to chat with other students and the instructor, not check your phone. It can wait."

Gordon Gow, director and associate professor in the Communications and Technology Graduate Program at the University of Alberta agrees that these devices can offer an immense boost to students, provided they are applied to the learning situation.

"It's your education and your time and money," says Gow. "If you're spending the class time on Facebook, that's a decision that affects what you will get out of the experience."

IF YOU'RE EASILY DISTRACTED BY YOUR DEVICE, THEN IT'S UP TO YOU TO TURN IT OFF AND PUT IT AWAY DURING CLASS

– University of Alberta professor Gordon Gow

"If you're easily distracted by your device, then it's up to you to turn it off and put it away during class," Gow adds. "If you're not there to learn then why be there at all?"

But much like the IPhone is to the Blackberry, not all classrooms are created equal. When it comes to the device debate, checking in with your professor might be the best way to go.

"Personally I don't have any policies or rules around electronics in the classroom," says Margaret Hughes professor in the Fitness and Health Promotion Program at Algonquin College. "They can have whatever tools they think will assist them through the lesson or activities available to them."

"It is safe to assume that portable devices will be in the classroom in some way, shape, or form," she adds. "So it is important for us to take advantage of that opportunity and tie it into our teaching methods."

Hughes suggests that if you're so gaga for your gadget that you can't imagine a class without it, figure out a way that it facilitates critical thinking, problem solving, and engagement and try communicating that to your educator.

"Suggest great videos, resources, or other learning tools that you may have come across to your prof that are relevant to your course."

—LIZ BEDDALL

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Hands-on learning at the Cutting Room

Whether fashion is your hobby, you want to advance your career or you are studying to enter the field and looking to supplement your knowledge, the Cutting Room's practical approach can help, says the owner of the one-stop shop for ideation, design, pattern making, sourcing, sampling and production.

"Our courses touch on theory but really focus on hands-on learning so students gain practical skills," says Liza Deyrmenjian, a fashion industry veteran with more than 25 years of experience in apparel design and production. "Instructors do demos and then are hands-on helping students."

Cutting Room courses cover topics that include fashion design and illustration, launching your own line, pattern making, drafting and draping, and sewing. Many courses are delivered in beginner, intermediate and advanced formats.

CONTRIBUTED

"No matter the class, on the first day we go over the curriculum and also learn about our students and what they want to get out of the course," says Deyrmenjian. "While we have set curriculums, we ensure there is room for customized learning."

In addition to a supportive class environment, with each class including no more than six students, Deyrmenjian says learners have access to studio hours, during which they can work independently.

"Students often comment on how much they love the space and how helpful everyone is," she says. "The Cutting Room definitely has a collaborative spirit. Everyone wants to see everyone progress."

For more, visit the-cuttingroom.com.

Examine your future plans and goals with QS World MBA Tour

Mark Kostove planned to complete his master of business administration (MBA) at age 27. When he was 25, he attended the QS World MBA Tour with this in mind — only to have the event alter his plan completely.

"I met the head of admissions for University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management and the conversation we had genuinely changed my life," says Kostove, who graduated in 2015. "She convinced me to apply, I did and got in. The opportunity for an intimate conversation about me as an individual and about the school was pretty unique."

The QS World MBA Tour brings together the world's top business schools. Attendees have the opportunity to meet with admissions directors, attend informative MBA admissions and GMAT seminars, and network with alumni.

"When you walk in, it can be intimidating," says Kostove. "Remember, the people running the event want you to have the best experience so ask them questions and the recruiters are happy to talk to you."

CONTRIBUTED

Kostove also recommends preparing reasons why you want to complete your MBA and having a short list of schools in which you are interested, which allows for richer conversations.

"The more prep you do, the more you'll get out of it," he says.

Facilitated by QS, a global provider of specialist higher education and careers information and solutions, the tour stops at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver on Jan. 19. For more, visit topmba.com/events.

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Take that first step toward a career move

In today's ever changing economy, ensuring your skills are up-to-date is imperative. That's why Vancouver Community College (VCC) offers more than 40 certificate and diploma programs through its Continuing Studies department for those interested in upgrading their skills, changing careers or preparing for a promotion, says the department's dean.

"Because we recognize that continuing studies students are adult learners who have responsibilities and families and careers, our offerings ensure a great deal of flexibility," says Gordon McIvor. "That includes courses that start throughout the semester rather than just having traditional September and January starts, courses of varying lengths, including some that are just five weeks; as well as self-paced courses, which means students can attend one term and take the next term off should they choose to."

OUR COURSES MEET THE GOALS OF ALL LEARNERS, WHETHER PROFESSIONAL OR PERSONAL.

– Gordon McIvor, VCC dean of Continuing Studies

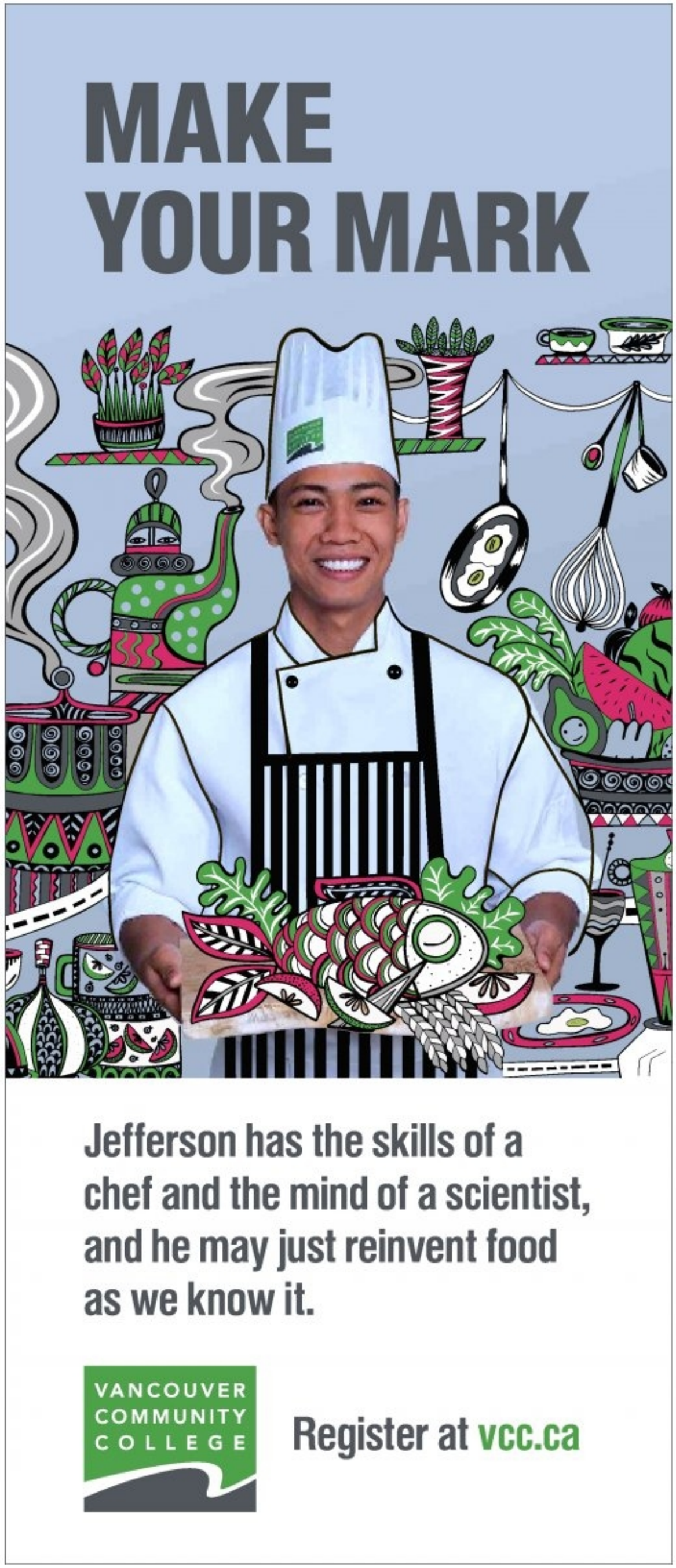
Among the areas in which VCC offers continuing studies courses are business, culinary and baking, design, hair, esthetics and makeup, health sciences, hospitality, human and family services, language and writing, and technology. McIvor says thanks to the college's 50-year history, it has a unique understanding of the needs of adult learners.

"We are in the downtown core and there are a lot of private schools here," he says. "But we are the public provider in the downtown core and that makes us accessible and affordable. Our courses meet the goals of all learners, whether professional or personal. And our reputation is well known. For example, you can't go to a restaurant in Vancouver and not find someone who has taken a culinary course or program at VCC."

And while heading back to school can be intimidating, McIvor says VCC's continuing studies courses foster an environment that is inclusive and supportive. Classes are facilitated in-person and many are delivered in the evenings to ensure accessibility.

"Classes are collaborative, for sure. People are here for skills and knowledge as well as the exchange of ideas with their fellow peers and instructors," he says. "This is about transferable learning, experiential learning and learning that is relevant in today's workplace being taught by instructors who are active in their fields and passionate about teaching and giving back."

CONTRIBUTED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Jefferson has the skills of a chef and the mind of a scientist, and he may just reinvent food as we know it.
VANCOUVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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My on-campus resolutions are crashing down

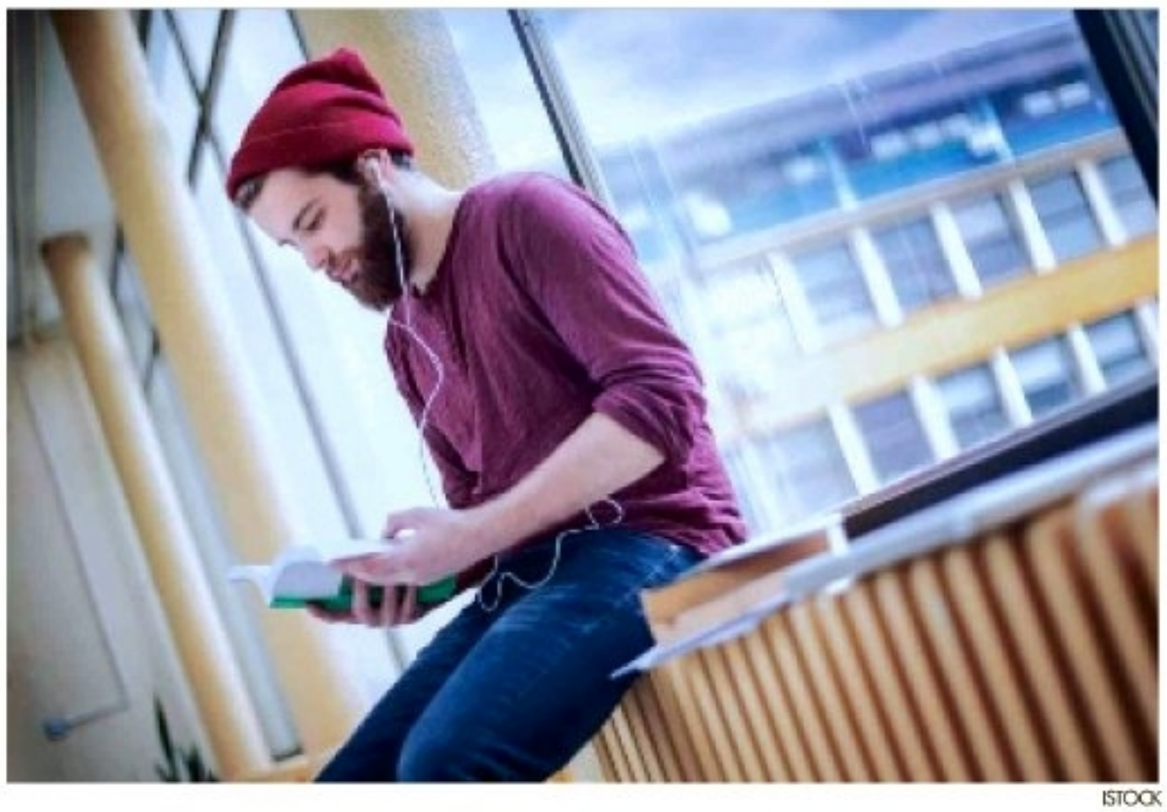
Whether it was staying away from second helpings at the campus cafeteria or setting aside two hours a day for study time, you burst into 2017 with a resolution you were sure you'd stand behind for the length of the semester. But the unpredictable events of adult life have come into play, and the solemn oaths you took for the New Year are already slipping away. Should you throw in the towel altogether or reset, reframe and re-resolve?

"Breathe, don't panic, and bring yourself back to the goal that was important to you," says Laura Mitchell, director of the student success centre at Concordia University. "So, you've fallen behind but you can get back on track and it won't help to keep being angry at yourself."

Mitchell emphasizes that when rethinking your resolution, the most important thing is setting goals that are ultimately achievable.

"The new year can give us that motivational rush to make changes, but thinking through your goals more carefully and setting smaller milestones can prevent discouragement and giving up soon after."

Dr. Simon Sherry, registered psychologist and associate professor at Dalhousie University, agrees that there is no need to hang all your hopes on that particular January 1st date.



ISTOCK

"Pick another temporal landmark and start again. Birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, or even Mondays all represent opportunities to start anew," he says.

"Compassion is key. Be kind to yourself and be accepting of slip-ups. Changing behaviour is hard. And nobody pitches a perfect game.

Anna-Lisa Ciccocioppo, counsellor in the student wellness centre at the University of Calgary, points to the benefit of determining 'SMART' resolutions, or rather, goals that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time-limited.

"Saying, 'I resolve to bring up my grades this semester', isn't helpful," she says. "But if you apply SMART goal criteria, a student might say instead as a long-term SMART goal, 'I would like to achieve a B+ in my Economics class by the end of the semester' and then develop smaller SMART goals for each week and each day."

Dr. Simon Sherry emphasizes above all that if a student chooses to engage in on-campus resolution, no matter the time or specifics, the wherewithal to see it through will likely be determined by the personal nature of the objective itself.

"Don't live out someone else's goal for you," he says. "Ignore naggers and haters and select a goal that reflects your interests and your values. Be true to yourself and pick a resolution that fits with who you are and what you want."

—LIZ BEDDALL

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If you're starting 2017 looking to make a difference in your life and in the world, a career in social services may be for you.

It's an incredibly rewarding and often challenging path that requires intellectual and emotional intelligence in equal measure.

When you're a social service professional, you're equipped with a wide range of skills to help people through almost any situation. As a social service professional you may help families through crisis, help empower homeless youth, or work directly with victims of trauma.

Job opportunities in the field range just as widely, so you can find a workplace that suits your interests. Help rehabilitate people at correctional facilities or addiction rehabilitation centres, work with children and families in school programs or family social services agencies, and much more.

Social services workers are also well-versed in current social issues and policies in Canada. You'll gain an understanding of cultural and diversity issues, explore professional ethics and social justice.

The new year is a perfect time to take the leap and change your career. The CDI College Social Services Worker Professional program is a great place to start.

The program prepares graduates with the skills and knowledge to work in the social services field helping those in need, with a particular focus on youth, Aboriginals and those affected by addiction.

Find out more online at cdicollege.ca, or call 1-800-360-7186.

metro SPORTS

Manny Ramirez has agreed to terms with the Kochi Fighting Dogs of Japan's independent Shikoku Island League

Beef with a thin blue line

CANUCKS

Desjardins explains events that led to just 5 defencemen

One of Canucks head coach Willie Desjardins' longest chats with the media this season was mostly spent talking about what didn't happen over the weekend.

Like, why did Vancouver not recall a defenceman from the minors for insurance heading into Saturday's second game of a back-to-back against the Flames in Calgary, forcing the team to ultimately go with a skeleton crew of five blueliners?

And how was it that Anton Rodin — dressed as the 13th forward — stayed stapled to the bench the whole night, not seeing a single second of ice time?

"It was unusual," Desjardins said Monday of his short-handed defence in that 3-1 loss to Calgary. "It was a hard situation to prepare for."

"There's lots of things with Rodin," the coach continued later. "I like Anton Rodin."

On the defensive question, Desjardins said Christopher Tanev stayed in Vancouver to get checked out after taking a shot up high in Friday's 4-2 home victory over the Flames.

It was hoped he could fly to Calgary on Saturday, but when that didn't happen the club still had what it thought were six healthy defencemen. Things got dire when Ben Hutton, who was hit in the hand by a puck Friday, revealed after warmup he wouldn't be able to go, leaving the Canucks scrambling.

"I thought both would probably be OK," said Desjardins. "They say it's 50/50, it's like you might get one of them back. We thought we'd get one."

The decision had also been made earlier in the day that summoning a player from the AHL's Utica Comets, who were in Pennsylvania, didn't make sense when taking travel considerations into account.

"How much better is that guy going to be in your lineup than if you had to go with five defence?" said Desjardins. "We played a good game in Calgary. It was probably the right way to go, going with five. That's not how you want to go into games."

Tanev travelled with the Canucks as they set out on a two-game road trip to Nashville and Philadelphia, but Desjardins said Hutton will be out for "a bit."

Despite the tough circumstances, Tanev thought the Canucks put up a spirited fight in Saturday's defeat that snapped a six-game winning streak. Vancouver had looked outmatched the previous night, getting outshot 46-13 despite posting a 4-2 win over the Flames.

"I was just as surprised as you guys when I turned it on and saw there were only five defencemen playing," said Tanev, who missed 20 games earlier this season with a lower-body injury. "They did a great job."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Head coach Willie Desjardins and the Canucks saw their six-game winning streak snapped on Saturday against the Flames.

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **It's always tough to be on the side and not playing.**
> Anton Rodin

IN BRIEF

Packers' versatility will be needed if Nelson is out

Wide receivers for the Green Bay Packers are trained to handle any position. That versatility will come in handy for the Packers if Jordy Nelson misses the divisional-round playoff game against the Dallas Cowboys this weekend due to a rib injury.

Nelson will sit out practice midweek to focus on rehab for the injury, though McCarthy said his top receiver may be cleared to play in Dallas.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It's time for him to grow.

New York Giants general manager Jerry Reese on Odell Beckham Jr., pictured, who allegedly punched a hole in a wall outside the Giants' locker room at Lambeau Field after Sunday night's 38-13 loss to the Packers.

Manning and Spurrier set for college football HOF

Peyton Manning and his Southeastern Conference nemesis, former Florida coach Steve Spurrier, will go into the College Football Hall of Fame together.

The rest of the new Hall of Fame class of 13 players and coaches announced Monday includes Southern California Heisman Trophy winner Matt Leinart, San Diego State running back Marshall Faulk and Danny Ford. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ronaldo wins FIFA's best player award for 4th time

Cristiano Ronaldo received FIFA's best player award for the fourth time on Monday, after Portugal and Real Madrid won both major European titles in 2016.

He beat runner-up and great rival Lionel Messi and Antoine Griezmann to complete a sweep of top individual awards.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

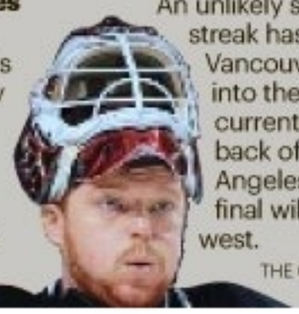
HOCKEY NEWS BITES

Career year

Tampa Bay's Victor Hedman is on pace for a career-high 72 points. Since Dec. 1 the blue-liner has 20 points in 18 games while averaging about 25 minutes for the Lightning.

Schneider's struggles

Cory Schneider, pictured, entered this season bettered only by Carey Price in save percentage since being traded from Vancouver to New Jersey in the summer of 2013. The 30-year-old has fallen off in this season with the Devils. Schneider sits 24th in save percentage (.908) among the 35 goalies with at least 20 starts.



Out west

An unlikely six-game win streak has pushed the Vancouver Canucks into the playoff mix, currently one point back of the Los Angeles Kings for the final wild-card spot out west.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Is 700 club within Ovi's grasp?

Only seven players in the 100-year history of the NHL have ever scored 700 goals, and Alex Ovechkin may join them one day.

Ovechkin recently climbed past Stan Mikita on the all-time goals list and pulled even with the great Maurice (Rocket) Richard for 29th place on Monday.

The 30-year-old captain of the Washington Capitals, with 544 career goals, could reach 24th in NHL history by season's end — passing Mike Modano's 561 goals — if he maintains his current scoring pace.

Barring catastrophe, Ovechkin will soon become only the 20th player ever to reach 600 goals — perhaps next season — but can he get to that elusive 700-club, which includes only Wayne Gretzky (894), Gordie Howe (801), Jaromir Jagr (756), Brett Hull (741), Marcel Dionne (731), Phil Esposito (717), and Mike Gartner (708)? Ovechkin is on pace for 38 goals this season, which would leave him only 137 shy of 700 with four years left on his current contract with the Capitals. If he played only those four years Ovechkin would need to average 34-35 goals to get to 700.

Alex Ovechkin

GETTY IMAGES

Five more years and that average dips below 30, at which point Ovechkin will be in his late 30s. Can he play that long and still remain productive?

Maybe, though not everyone has the moves like Jagr, the last player to reach 700. Jagr reached 27 goals last season at age 44.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Watson and Tigers dethrone the Tide

NCAA

Clemson QB throws 3 TDs to win title game vs. Alabama

College football's first national championship rematch was fitting sequel to the original, with an unusual twist at the end.

Deshaun Watson and Clemson dethroned the champs and became the first team to beat Nick Saban's Alabama dynasty in a national title game, taking down the top-ranked Crimson Tide 35-31 Monday night in the College Football Playoff.

Watson found Hunter Renfrow for a two-yard touchdown pass with a second remaining to give the Tigers their first national championship since 1981. A year after Alabama won its fourth title under Saban with a 45-40 classic in Arizona, Clemson closed the deal and denied the Tide an unprecedented fifth championship in eight seasons.

The lead changed hands four times in the fourth quarter, but Watson got the ball last. Likely playing in his final college game, the junior quarterback threw for 420 yards and three touchdowns.

Coach Dabo Swinney had built an elite program at Clemson that was missing only one thing, and now the Tigers can check that box, too. The Tigers took a 28-24 lead with 4:38 left in the fourth quarter when Wayne Gallman surged in from a yard out.

Clemson's Deshaun Watson celebrates a last-second touchdown pass to Hunter Renfrow in Tampa, Fla., on Monday night. JOHN BAZEMORE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MONDAY In Tampa, Fla.

CLEMSON	ALABAMA
35	31

The Tide's offence, which had gone dormant for most of the second half, came to life with the help of a sweet call from newly promoted offensive co-ordinator Steve Sarkisian. Receiver ArDarius Stewart took a backward pass from Jalen Hurts and fired a strike to O.J. Howard for 24 yards.

On the next play, Hurts broke free from a collapsing pocket and weaved his way through defenders for a 30-yard touchdown run to make it 31-28 with 2:07 left.

More than enough time for Watson, who hooked up with Mike Williams and Jordan Leggett for great catches and big gains to get to first-and-goal.

A pass interference on Alabama made it first-and-goal at the 2 with six seconds left. Time for one more play to avoid a tying kick and potential overtime. Renfrow slipped away from the defence at the goal-line and was alone for an easy toss. It was the walk-on receiver's second TD catch of the night, adding to the two he had last season against Alabama.

When it ended the Tigers had snapped Alabama's 26-game winning streak and beaten a No. 1 team for the first time ever. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Westbrook, Thunder brush the Bulls aside

Even Russell Westbrook was impressed with the passing by Oklahoma City's big men.

Westbrook flirted with another triple-double and Steven Adams led a dominant effort in the paint, helping the Thunder pull away from the Chicago Bulls for an easy 109-94 victory Monday night.

Westbrook had 21 points, 14 assists and nine rebounds, falling just short of his 18th triple-double of the season. But his all-around performance is practically a sure thing these days. It was the inside play of Adams and Enes Kanter that really hurt Chicago, with the big men scoring with ease or passing out of double-teams to set up their teammates.

"They do a great job of playing off each other," Westbrook said. Adams had 22 points on 11-for-14 shooting, and Kanter finished with 20 points and 11 rebounds. The duo helped the Thunder to 56.6 per cent shooting from the field, a 60-36 advantage on points in the paint and a 42-38 edge in rebounding.

Dwyane Wade led Chicago with 22 points, and Michael Carter-Williams had 15. Cristiano Felicio finished with 11 points and 11 rebounds. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MONDAY In Chicago

THUNDER	BULLS
109	94

IN BRIEF

B.C.'s Budd to face Coenen for title at Bellator 174

B.C.'s, Julia (The Jewel) Budd will meet Dutch veteran Marloes (Rumina) Coenen on March 3 to decide Bellator's first women's featherweight champion. The two will face off for the 145-pound title in Bellator 174 at the WinStar World Casino & Resort in Thackerville, Okla.

Budd (9-2-0) has won seven straight since losing by submission to the UFC's (Rowdy) Ronda Rousey in Strikeforce in November 2011. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Timbers loan Melano to Argentine side Belgrano

The Portland Timbers have loaned midfielder Lucas Melano to Atletico Belgrano of Argentina.

Melano, a native of Argentina who began his professional career with Belgrano, will be on loan with the top-division team through Dec. 31.

The 23-year-old has played in 44 matches with the Timbers since he joined the team midway through the 2015 season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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MAKE IT TONIGHT

Hearty Pasta e Fagioli

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Is it a soup? Is it a pasta? Who cares when it's hearty and healthy.

Ready in 35 minutes
Serves 6

Ingredients
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion diced
- 3 cloves of garlic minced
- 1 or 3 stalks of celery chopped
- 3 medium carrots sliced thinly
- 1 yellow or green zucchini, halved and then sliced
- 6 mushrooms cleaned and sliced
- 1 14 oz. can of cannelini beans
- 2 cups vegetable or chicken stock
- 1 x 28 oz. can drained plum tomatoes
- 1 cup whole wheat tubetti pasta
- thyme and rosemary
- 1/2 cup grated parmesan

Directions

1. Sauté onion, garlic and celery in olive oil till soft, 3 minutes. Add carrots and cook 2 minutes before adding zucchini and mushrooms. Let soften before adding the stock.

2. Drain can of cannelini beans and scoop out 1/3 cup and mash roughly. Put mashed and unmashed beans into pot and stir. Cover and simmer 5 minutes.

3. Drain tomatoes and add, breaking up with spoon. Simmer 5 minutes.

4. Add cup of tubetti, a good pinch of thyme and rosemary and cook for 10 minutes. Add some salt and pepper to taste.

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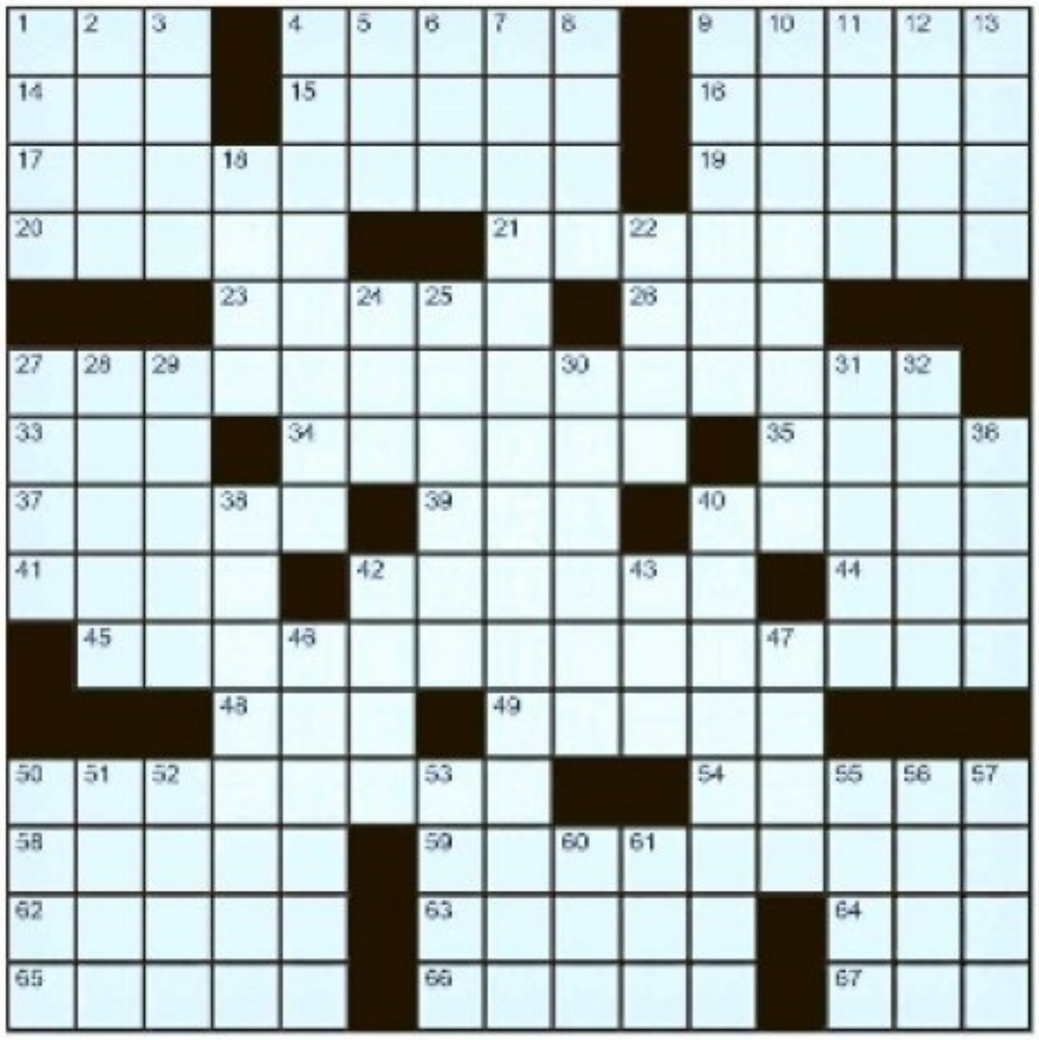
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Texter's pal
4. A belt is worn around one
9. "American _ Warrior" (NBC's obstacle course show)
14. Ghost's communication...
15. When a long lunch might end: 2 wds.
16. The Hunter constellation
17. Sweetly soothe a sour situation
19. Jabbed
20. Celebrity chef Mario Batali always wears orange ones
21. Close-ivity
23. Belonging to the "Good Times" disco group
26. Plant seeds
27. Vancouver's great Spirit of the West: 3 wds.
33. Ms. MacGraw
34. Glenn Gould played them
35. Street
37. Belonging to NYC's legendary punk club
39. "Rhoda"' production co.
40. Stephen King's fictional Maine town
41. Charlie Chaplin's last wife
42. 11:55am or 2:55pm ...in two other words
44. Culpa's partner
45. Futuristic comic series by Brian K. Vaughan and Steve Skroce (with colouring by Matt Hollingsworth) about Canadian freedom fighters: 4 wds.
48. French possessive
49. Novel's I'il opening
50. Get less noisy: 2 wds.
54. "Don't mind _ _ _!"
58. Send _ _ (Communicate via Hallmark)
59. Trailblazer
62. Not like The Fonz
63. Rent
64. Niblets holder
65. Soddy stuff
66. Laundromat
67. Timecard abbr.

DOWN
1. Pear variety
2. Bobby Orr's number
3. Island off of Newfoundland
4. Navy vessels
5. Airport tower [acronym]
6. Figure skater Midori
7. Couch potato's retro meal: 3 wds.
8. Books-carrying bag
9. "I've got this, don't worry.": 2 wds.
10. Pots and kettles and pans
11. Ancient winged goddess
12. Smokey _ Cafe (Leiber & Stoller musical revue)
13. Pluses
18. Invoice abbr.
22. Inquires
24. Here: French
25. Stuff tightly: 2 wds.
27. Prefix to 'phony' (Harsh noise)
28. Arm joint
29. Line: French
30. "Get real.": 2 wds.
31. _ Jean, "Candle in the Wind" lady
32. One saying "I bet you can't..."
36. Pair
38. "Inglourious _" (2009)
40. Fictional setting in Saskatchewan of "Corner Gas": 2 wds.
42. Burkina _ (Nation in West Africa)
43. Mtn. blaster
46. 26th Pres. Mr. Roosevelt's
47. _ _ _ (Edmonton sch.)
50. Hungry feeling
51. Frosting applier
52. Prefix to 'normal'
53. Untamed
55. Pining
56. House entrance
57. Spheres
60. Negative vote
61. 'Lact' suffix

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
One thing is certain today: You will be surprised by bosses and authority figures. That's because parents, VIPs and teachers will do something that is completely unpredictable.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Sudden opportunities to travel might fall into your lap today. Alternatively, plans for travel might be cancelled, delayed or changed. Yes, it's a crapshoot.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Double-check all details concerning inheritances, shared property, insurance issues and debt, because something unexpected will affect these areas.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
A partner or close friend will surprise you today. This person might demand more freedom in the relationship, or he or she might make an unusual suggestion. Think twice before you respond.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Equipment at work might break down today. This is a classic day for computer breakdowns. Something unexpected will create delays and detours on the job.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This is an accident-prone day for your kids, so be extra vigilant. Know where they are at all times. Social events might be suddenly cancelled or changed in some way.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Something will interrupt your home routine today. Small appliances might break down. Minor breakages could Someone unexpected might appear at your door.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
This is an accident-prone day for your sign, so be extra careful. Be mindful of everything you say and do. Keep your eyes open!

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Something unexpected might affect your finances and possessions today. You might find money, or you might lose money. Guard your possessions against loss or theft.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You feel rebellious today. Even if you're not aware of it, you probably are impatient. Of course, it's hard to control anything that happens today, because it's all so unpredictable!

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You feel restless today. You feel like you're waiting for the other shoe to drop. Don't act until you get all the information about what's going on.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
A friend might surprise you today. Alternatively, you might meet someone new who is avant-garde or unusual in some way.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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		1				3		

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6	1	5	8	7	4	3	2	9
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